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Crambinae)

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***Agriphila cyrenaicella* (Ragonot, 1887) a species new for the Maltese Islands (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae, Crambinae)**

A. Catania

Abstract

Agriphila cyrenaicella (Ragonot, 1887) is here recorded for the first time from the Maltese Islands.
KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Pyralidae, Crambinae, *Agriphila cyrenaicella*, Malta.

Agriphila cyrenaicella (Ragonot, 1887) una nueva especie para Malta
(Lepidoptera: Pyralidae, Crambinae)

Resumen

Agriphila cyrenaicella (Ragonot, 1887) se cita por primera vez para Malta.
PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Pyralidae, Crambinae, *Agriphila cyrenaicella*, Malta.

Introduction

Agriphila cyrenaicella (Ragonot, 1887) is known to be distributed in and recorded from Portugal, Spain, Sardinia, Sicily, Greece, Crete, Cyprus, North Africa, Israel, Iraq, Iran, Syria and Central Asia (SLAMSKA 2008).

In Malta this genus is represented by one other species *Agriphila trabeatella* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1848) (SAMMUT 2000) a common species which is on the wing between April and May and again in September and October.

This species may have reached Malta by normal migration from the surrounding countries where it is found, or else by human intervention. It may have reached us from North Africa or else from nearby Sicily. Other unusual migratory species recorded between the months of October to December were *Hyles livornica* (Esper, 1779) *Heliothis nubigera* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1851) and *Heliothis peltigera* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775). These species usually migrate in March and April when the temperature is around 20° C.

Material and methods

Material examined: Malta, Zebbug, 1 ♂, 5-X-2010 [at light] A. Catania leg., in collection A. Catania.

Characteristics of adult: Males of *A. cyrenaicella* have distinct serrated antennae which are almost short and pectinated with long ciliae. Both sexes have a conical and pointed frons. Fringes in *A. cyrenaicella* have no metallic sheen.

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Bionomics and habitat: *A. cyrenaicella* inhabits dry, grassy, open habitats. Larvae feed on Graminaceae plants.



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